

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-01 AGR-05

EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 HEW-02 SCS-03 SCA-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OES-03 LAB-04 SIL-01

CIEP-01 /163 W

----- 074867

R 240934Z MAR 75

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3344

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LUANDA 0304

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SPOP PDEV AO

SUBJECT: MINISTER OF HEALTH DISCUSSES REFUGEE PLAN

REF: LUANDA 0274

1. DURING THE COURSE OF A CONVERSATION WITH MINISTER OF HEALTH (FNLA) SAMUEL ABRIGADA, I LEARNED THAT THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT HAS NOT YET MADE A FORMAL REQUEST TO ROME FOR EMERGENCY FOOD SUPPLIES (REFTEL). ABRIGADA SAID THAT THE UN REPRESENTATIVES WHO WERE HERE EARLIER THIS MONTH TO DISCUSS THE ANGOLAN REFUGEES SAID THAT THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM HAD NO STOCKS AND THAT ARRANGEMENTS MUST BE MADE TO BUY THE NEEDED ITEMS. I GATHER THE FORMAL REQUEST WILL GO FORWARD WHEN THE ANGOLANS LEARN WHAT WILL BE AVAILABLE.

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2. ABRIGADA OUTLINED FOR ME A GRANDIOSE PLAN TO BRING BACK AND RELOCATE THE REFUGEES, BUT WHEN I QUESTIONED HIM ON THE DETAILS I FOUND THAT VIRTUALLY NOTHING HAS BEEN DONE. HE SAID THAT ONLY 50,000 TO 60,000 REFUGEES HAVE COME BACK TO ANGOLA AND THAT MOST OF THOSE ARRIVED UNAIDED.

3. ACCORDING TO ABRIGADA, FNLA MADE A STUDY LAST YEAR AND FOUND THERE WERE 1,500,000 ANGOLANS IN ZAIRE AND 30,000 IN ZAMBIA AND THAT ALL OF THEM WANTED TO RETURN HOME. IN OCTOBER, 1974, PRESIDENT MOBUTO TOLD HOLDEN ROBERTO THAT INASMUCH AS THE ANGOLANS PROVIDED ESSENTIAL GOODS AND SERVICES TO A SUBSTANTIAL SEGMENT OF THE ZAIRIAN POPULATION, THEIR DEPARTURE MUST BE PHASED OVER SEVER YEARS. WHEN ROBERTO ANNOUNCED THIS TO THE REFUGEES THE NEWS WAS RECEIVED WITH GREAT RESENTMENT. FINALLY, A PLAN WAS ADOPTED UNDER WHICH 650,000 REFUGEES WOULD RETURN TO ANGOLA IN 1975, AN ADDITIONAL NUMBER IN 1976 AND THE REMAINDER IN 1977.

4. UNDER ABRIGADA'S PLAN, 150,000 REFUGEES WERE SLATED TO RETURN IN FEBRUARY, 1975 AND 250,000 IN EACH OF THE MONTHS OF MARCH AND APRIL. A NUMBER OF EMBARKATION POINTS ARE TO BE ESTABLISHED IN ZAIRE TO COLLECT THE RETURNEES AND GIVE THEM TRANSPORTATION TO THE ANGOLAN BORDER, WHERE RECEIVING STATIONS WILL TAKE THEM IN AND DURING A STAY OF A FEW DAYS WILL VACCINATE THEM, CHECK THEIR PAPERS AND ASSIGN A RELOCATION SITE. A TOTAL OF 121 RELOCATION SITES HAVE BEEN SELECTED THROUGHOUT ANGOLA. EACH SITE WILL HAVE A CAPACITY OF 15,000 PEOPLE AND WILL BE FURNISHED WITH HOUSES, SCHOOLS AND HEALTH CLINICS. FOR EVERY FOUR RELOCATION SITES, ONE CENTRALLY LOCATED HOSPITAL WILL BE BUILT. THE GREATEST NUMBER OF REFUGEES WILL BE SETTLED IN ANGOLA'S THREE NORTHERNMOST PROVINCES, BUT MANY THOUSANDS ARE SLATED UNDER THE PLAN TO GO TO OTHER REGIONS.

5. VERY LITTLE HAS BEEN DONE UP TO NOW, SAID ABRIGADA, FOR LACK OF FUNDS AND ORGANIZATION. FIVE DOCTORS AND ONE HUNDRED NURSES ARE IN THE NORTH, AS ARE FIFTEEN EXTENSION AGENTS. HE DID NOT SAY SO, BUT I IMAGINE THESE DO NOT REPRESENT ANY INCREASE OVER THE NORMAL COMPLEMENT OF MEDICAL AND AGRICULTURAL PERSONNEL STATIONED IN THE REGION. ABRIGADA SAID HE HAD JUST HEARD TWO DAYS PREVIOUSLY THAT THE

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GOVERNMENT HAD APPROVED 100,000,000 MILLION ESCUDOS (ABOUT 4,000, 000 DOLLARS AT THE OFFICIAL RATE OF EXCHANGE) FOR THE REFUGEE PROGRAM. HE BLAMED "ANOTHER LIBERATION MOVEMENT" FOR THE LONG DELAY IN GETTING THE MONEY. A REFUGEE COMMISSION PROVIDED FOR IN ARTICLE 38 OF THE ALVOR AGREEMENT HAS BEEN SET UP AND IS COMPOSED OF TWO MEMBERS FROM EACH OF THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS TWO NOMINATED BY THE PORTUGUESE. THE AGREEMENT ACTUALLY CALLS FOR MORE THAN ONE COMMISSION, BUT ABRIGADA SPOKE AS

THOUGH THIS WILL BE THE ONLY ONE, AT LEAST FOR A WHILE.
ABRIGADA FILLS THE ROLE OF COORDINATOR ENVISAGED IN ARTICLE
38, BUT HE IS NOT A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION.

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6. THE FNLA LOOKS UPON THE RETURNING REFUGEES AS A SOURCE
OF LABOR THIS YEAR ON THE COFFEE FAZENDAS TO TAKE THE PLACE
OF THE BAILUNDOS WHO NORMALLY CONTRACT WITH COFFEE FARMERS.
ABRIGADA SAID THAT MOST REFUGEES ARE STILL IN THE PROCESS
OF BUILDING HUTS AND OTHERWISE GETTING READY TO BRING THEIR
FAMILIES BACK SO THAT VERY FEW HAVE GONE OUT LOOKING FOR WORK.
HE ADDED THAT THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (FNLA) HAS BEEN
IN THE NORTH TALKING TO FARMERS ABOUT THEIR LABOR REQUIREMENTS.
ABRIGADA DOUBTS THE BAILUNDOS WILL COME NORTH IN ANY GREAT
NUMBERS THIS YEAR BECAUSE THEY ARE DEMANDING A HIGHER WAGE
THAN THE FARMERS CAN PAY. TOO, SOME OF THE BAILUNDOS IN
YEARS PAST WORKED AS GUARDS ON FAZENDAS TO HELP PROTECT AGAINST

FNLA ATTACKS AND THEY ARE AFRAID OF REPRISALS IF THEY GO NORTH.
HE RECOGNIZED THERE WILL BE A PROBLEM ABOUT LAND
CLAIMS, BUT HE SAID THE ECONOMY MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO SUFFER
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IN ORDER TO SATISFY SUCH CLAIMS. MANY OF THE RETURNING
BAKONGO WILL HAVE TO RESETTLE OUTSIDE THEIR TRADITIONAL
HOMES IN THE NORTH. OTHERS IN THE REGION MAY BE GRANTED
LAND, BUT WORKING FARMS WILL NOT BE BROKEN UP TO SATISFY
CLAIMS. THE PROBLEM IS A SERIOUS ONE AND REQUIRES STUDY.

7. ONCE THE MONEY ABRIGADA SAYS HAS BEEN APPROVED FOR
THE PROGRAM GETS INTO CIRCULATION THE FNLA REFUGEE PLAN
SHOULD BEGIN TO FUNCTION, ALTHOUGH I DOUBT WE WILL EVER
SEE A HIGH DEGREE OF ORGANIZATION OR INITIATIVE. ABRIGADA
SAID THE UN MAY SEND SOME PEOPLE TO HELP IN THE ORGANIZATION
OF THE PROGRAM, ALTHOUGH NO PROMISES HAVE BEEN MADE.
THE UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE FROM KINSHASA WILL RETURN TO ANGOLA
ON MARCH 23, HE SAID.

8. IN ADDITION TO MY EARLIER RECOMMENDATION THAT WE PROVIDE
TITLE II COMMODITIES TO ANGOLA FOR THE REFUGEES, I SUGGEST
THAT WE DO ALL WE CAN IN THE UN TO MAKE SURE THE UNHCR
GIVES THE ENTIRE QUESTION OF THE ANGOLAN REFUGEES CLOSE
ATTENTION. THE GREATEST NEED AT THE MOMENT IS FOR A TEAM
TO HELP RESHAPE AND REFINE ABRIGADA'S PLAN AND TO GIVE SOME
ON THE JOB PRACTICAL TRAINING TO THOSE CHARGED WITH
CARRYING OUT THE REFUGEE PROGRAM.
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